THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The allocation of foodgrains to all the States including Kerala is made @ 35 kg per family per month for all the categories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The number of BPL families has been fixed for each State on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and population projection of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000.

The foodgrains allotted to the States/UTs for distribution under TPDS are only supplemental to open market availability and are not meant for meeting the entire need of any State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foodgrains for BPL People

3619. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the poverty ridden people are unable to buy rice, wheat even at BPL rates thereby defeating Government's "Hunger Free Country" slogan; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to enable the poorest of the poor to take benefits of the PDS and to increase their purchasing power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) To benefit the poorest of the poor, the "Antyodaya Anna Yojna" was launched on 25th December, 2000. The Scheme envisages identification of one crore poorest of the poor families from amongst the estimated number of BPL families and providing them the foodgrains at the scale of 25 kg per family per month at highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 a kg for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg for rice. The entitlement of foodgrains for Antyodaya families has been further increased to 35 kg per family per month w.e.f. April, 2002.